

Zionism

- Theodore Herzl
 - Proposed in 1897 the idea of a land for a Jewish nation
 - Herzl saw anti-semitism as a growing and eventual threat
 - Rejected by most Jews in Western Europe, even the reformed rabbis
 - Western European Jews often viewed themselves not as a nationality and rather associated with the European countries like France, Germany, etc.
- Herzl gains more support from Eastern europeans
- Palestine was rural and dominated by family elites
 - Younger family members would often receive education abroad
 - The elites controlled the politics of Palestine
- Former mayor of Jerusalem Yusuf Diya sends a letter to Theodor
 - “My god who can deny...” Jews from living in the place they came from
 - This section was plucked out from the overall letter and became a symbol of support of the Zionist plan
 - The letter in its total did not support Theodor’s ideas
 - * “Palestine is an integral part of the Ottaman empire, and more gravely it is inhabited by others”
 - * “In the name of god, let Palestine be left alone”
 - Herzl writes back and does not address Diya’s point that Palestine is already inhabited and thus cannot be turned into a Jewish nation state
 - * Herzl focuses on the argument that the immigration of Jewish people would bring with them prosperity and wealth
 - Follows a very similar idea to the argument of bringing civility to colonies
 - * “It is their well being, their individual wealth, that we will increase by bringing in our own”
- Balfour Declaration (Nov. 1917)
 - After WWI, British offer Palestine to the Zionist’s
 - “Establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish People”
 - Effectively pledged British support of Herzl’s plan for control of Palestine as well as the control of immigration of Palestine
 - Overwhelming population of Palestine at the time was Arab, something that goes unmentioned in the declaration
 - * Discarded/off handedly referred to as “existing non-Jewish communities”
 - * Not described as a nation or people
 - 6% of Palestine was Jewish at the time

* This declaration really was a mandate